Organic Pollutants (POPs) including nine pesticides and three industrial chemical emissions;

(b) whether as an immediate fall-out, the country would be given a grant from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) to carry out an assessment and chart out a plan to tackle POPs; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this plan and its impact on the industry?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. India has signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on 14th May, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Global Environment Fund (GEF) will provide financial assistance to countries who have signed the Convention. A proposal on enabling activities has been submitted to GEF for preliminary assessment of the extent and nature of POPs released into the environment and inventorisation of stock-piles and contaminated sites. The Convention is yet to come into force.

Review of Eco-Development Project

2547. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working of India's Eco-Development Project, which is focussed around Tiger Reserves and National Parks in seven States, has recently been reviewed and the problems identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to rectify them; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to afford more security to forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The progress of implementation of the India Eco-Development Project which is focussed around five Tiger Reserves and two National Parks in seven States has been reviewed from time to

time. The recent review was held on 16.7.2002. Some of the problems identified in certain States include delay in release of funds by State Governments, inadequate staff strength and frequent transfer of key personnel engaged in the execution of the project and need for training of staff. State Governments have been requested to mitigate the problems on priority basis.

(c) Following steps have been taken to afford more security to forests:—

(i) Reciprocal commitments with village communities for protection of wildlife and its habitat through Eco- Development Committees.

(ii) Strengthening the protection infrastructure through improved communication networks, better mobility and availability of sophisticated arms.

(iii) Habitat improvement through works such as construction of check dams, waterholes, weed eradication, creation of wild animal control barriers and plantation of grass/trees.

(iv) Reducing dependency on forest resources for fuelwood by providing alternative resources and fostering income generating activities that provide sustained income to local people.

(v) Increased awareness about the environmental and ecological attributes of forests.

Delhi Zoological Park

2548. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would plan to give the Delhi Zoological Park a revamp;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal with the Central Government in this context;

(c) whether the revamp project at the Delhi Zoo would consider placing all animals close to their natural habitat, instead of cage; and